



AETC News Clips

Randolph AFB, Texas



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. 15 May 06

Workshop to address Kelly-area concerns

Web Posted: 05/13/2006 12:00 AM CDT

San Antonio Express-News

The public is invited to a workshop concerning the Kelly area development from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. today at Dwight Middle School, 2454 W. Southcross Blvd.

The workshop, sponsored by the Kelly Area Collaboration, will address health concerns, environmental quality and economic development of the communities and neighborhoods around the former Kelly AFB.

San Antonio Express News
PAGE: Internet
POSTED: 15 May 06



AETC News Clips

Air Force Times



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply.

15 May 06

Luke airman dies in truck accident

Staff report

An airman assigned to Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., died May 4, when the Air Force truck she was riding in slid off a mountain-side road.

Senior Airman Abby J. Bilbrey, 26, of the 56th Communications Squadron was on duty when she was killed. Another crash victim, Airman 1st Class Isaac Acosta, 21, also of the 56th, was treated at a civilian hospital and released.

The airmen had been assigned to repair a radio transmitter atop the White Tanks Mountains, west of Luke, when their vehicle slid off the road and rolled about 100 feet down a hillside, reports said. Bilbrey was ejected from the vehicle.



AETC News Clips

Air Force Times



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply.

15 May 06

Pilot honored for gutsy landing

By [Bruce Rolfsen](#)

Times staff writer

Safely landing a C-17 Globemaster after the plane's nose cone broke apart and suffered control problems, earned an Air Force captain the 2005 Kolligian Trophy for safe flying. Capt. Andreas H. Ix of the 97th Air Mobility Wing, Altus Air Force Base, Okla., was flying a low-level training mission at about 300 mph when the transport jet struck a red-tailed hawk, according to Air Force reports.

The impact disintegrated the jet's nose radome, breaking away sensors that fed information into the flight controls. The impact also sent debris into the C-17's No. 3 engine.

Ix realized the cockpit information he was seeing was wrong and that the plane wasn't responding as it should to his commands. Working with the C-17's other aircrew members, Ix was able to keep control of the jet and ultimately land the \$203 million transport.



Capt. Andreas H. Ix — U.S. Air Force

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley hailed the performance.

"Ix's superior airmanship and ability to perform under extreme circumstances make him a perfect example of the best airmen our Air Force has to offer," the commander said.

Ix was to receive the Kolligian Trophy Friday at the Pentagon.



AETC News Clips

Maxwell AFB, Ala.



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **15 May 06**

Maxwell officers to lose jobs

By **Topher Sanders**
Montgomery Advertiser

More than 20 officers from Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base will lose their jobs due to overstaffing, Air Force officials said Thursday.

The Air Force notified 844 officers nationwide Wednesday that they will have to find work elsewhere. First Lt. John Fage, a public affairs officer stationed at Maxwell-Gunter, was one of those cut.

"My one major problem with this whole process was that for most of my questions, the best answer I could get was 'I don't know,'" Fage said. "The whole process seemed rushed and thrown together. I don't feel that our leadership was properly prepared with the information those affected needed."

More than 2,000 officers commissioned in 2002 and 2003 went before a retention board in April. About 40 officers stationed at Maxwell-Gunter went before the board, and 21 were let go.

Officials with the Air Force said the move was based on budget constraints. Officers selected for release will lose their jobs no later than Sept. 29.

Officers with more than seven years of active duty service qualify for a severance package. The package will pay 10 percent of an officer's annual salary multiplied by their years of active duty service.

Officers who want to stay in the military can apply to join the Air Force Reserve, the National Guard or the Army.

Fage, who only served four years, said the Air Force left him in the dark about how he would be reviewed by the retention board.

"There should've been a lot more guidance and information available for those who needed it, including how they would be evaluated by the board," he said. "The Air Force is going to lose a lot of very sharp, outstanding troops and they deserve better than an 'I don't know.'"

Lt. Col. Catherine A. Reardon, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said the Air Force was completely forthright with officers that had to go before the board.

"From spread the word briefings, to a dedicated Web site, and a direct phone line to the force shaping office at the Air Force Personnel Center, the lines of communication were open to provide affected officers as much information as possible regarding force shaping and the board," she said.

Fage, who holds a bachelor's degree in communication and a master's degree in public administration, said he will find work in the private sector and explore options with the Air Force Reserve.

Reardon said the decision to release the officers was a difficult one.

"The Air Force values the service and sacrifice of all airmen who volunteer to serve," she said. "And separating officers was a difficult decision that we did not take lightly."

Montgomery Advertiser

PAGE: Internet

DATE: 15 May 06



AETC News Clips

Sheppard AFB, Texas



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **15 May 06**

Tour gives rare glimpse of what really goes on at Sheppard Air Force Base

Stacy Horany

Times Record News

Do you know what really happens at Sheppard Air Force Base?

Yes, they fly planes. But did you know they also train folks to maintain and fix those planes, pack safety parachutes for pilots and practice dentistry?

Many folks in Wichita Falls might not know that these and other activities are all in a day's work for the base folks, and Friday's tour of Sheppard as part of the Adopt-A-Squadron Program gave many Wichitans a rare glimpse at the inner workings the base.

Tim Chase, president of the Board of Commerce & Industry, which sponsors the program, gave a mission to tour participants.

"Take what you have seen today and spread it wide and far," Chase said to the group of about 40 people who toured the base and saw four different missions at Sheppard. "It's disappointing to me that so many people in the community have no idea what goes on here."

After touring the base, participant Sherry Schleider said she could understand Chase's viewpoint.

"It really makes you appreciate Sheppard more," Schleider said.

The base tour included a stop at the 882nd Training Group, which is the dental and medical wing. Tour participants got to take an X-ray on a dummy patient, Dexter, who has real teeth in his mouth.

But those film X-rays are only going to be around for so long. Tour goers also got to a sneak peak at the future of dentistry, which will include digital X-rays.

"We'll be able to take the pictures digitally and process them anywhere in the world," said Staff Sergeant Otilio Blanco, one of the presenters at the dental wing.

Another stop included a look at the flight training missions at Sheppard, which include the 80th Flying Training Wing/Euro-Nato Joint Jet Pilot Training Program.

Tour members got to "fly" in a T-38C simulator.

Simulator instructor Hermann Leick, who hails from Germany and was a NATO pilot in 1981 at Sheppard, said pilots must spend hundreds of hours on various plane simulators before they can step into a real cockpit. And from the multiple crashes sustained by the tour group, it's easy to see Leick's point.

Local squadron adopter and pilot Robert Seabury, from North Texas Homebuilders, was taken aback by the simulator.

"I've never flown anything that fast," Seabury said with a chuckle of his past experience as a pilot. "It's amazing."

Tour members also saw where maintenance training occurs on the base at the 364th Training Wing. They got up-close with the F-16's "safety and maintenance checks" and were able to climb into the cockpit to see what maintenance

workers are up to when they "get under the hood" of the Air Force's many aircrafts.

The Squadron Adoption Program places various squadrons with businesses in the community to forge a stronger bond between Sheppard and its surroundings. And since Sheppard accounts for \$784 million in the local economy, it makes sense to keep the base and the community close.

And there are other ties besides dollars.

"We're in the community, too. We're in your churches, your schools," Brig. Gen. James Whitmore said.

Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, Texas
Times Record News, 13 May 2006, Page 2A
Email: www.timesrecordnews.com

Times Record News

PAGE: Internet

DATE: 15 May 06



AETC News Clips

Sheppard AFB, Texas



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **15 May 06**

STRIKE POSSIBLE

KFDX-TV 3 Web Site, Thursday, May 11, 2006

Some union workers at Sheppard Air Force Base say the rising cost of health insurance may force them to strike. In two days, if machine union members and Lear Siegler representatives don't reach an agreeable contract, about 400 machine workers will hit the picket lines. Lear Siegler wants to increase health care costs for union workers, but workers are not buying it. Union rep's will present a contract to union members on Saturday. If it is rejected, members say they will strike at midnight on Sunday.

Times Record News
PAGE: Internet
DATE: 15 May 06



AETC News Clips

Sheppard AFB, Texas



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **15 May 06**

Contract in works for Sheppard workers

Union workers at Sheppard Air Force Base are expected to approve a new contract with a maintenance services provider, but the chance of a strike remains.

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers recently reached a tentative agreement with Lear Siegler, and Walter Beeman said he expects members to vote in favor of the measure Saturday. Officials with the aircraft services company could not be reached Friday.

Union members are set to meet at 1 p.m. at the Elks Lodge on Seymour Highway to discuss the contract. But if it isn't passed, a strike could start at midnight on Sunday, said Beeman, who is on the union's negotiating committee. The major sticking point has been health care, he said.

The union has about 400 machine workers that could strike, but that outcome would be unusual. The union negotiates the contract every three years to address issues related to wages and benefits. Such efforts typically go down to the wire, Beeman said.

"Every time," he said, explaining that employers are trying to keep as many concessions as they can. "We're trying to get the most benefits for our workers."

But the only strike came in 1997, when workers didn't work for a week until an agreement was reached. Beeman wouldn't specify what all has gone into this year's negotiations. He did say that health care costs had been kept to an about 13 percent growth instead of triple-digit increases seen in other places.

"It's gone up a little bit, but I think we contained it as much as we could," Beeman said.

Times Record News

PAGE: Internet

DATE: 15 May 06



AETC News Clips

Vance AFB, Okla.



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **15 May 06**

Prospects ‘enduring’ for Vance, Cooper says

By Jeff Mullin Senior Writer

May 13, 2006 Page A1 and A3

CNHI News Service

— Enduring. Webster’s Dictionary defines it as “lasting, permanent.”

Enduring also is a word government officials are liberally applying to military facilities that survived the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Round, said Vance Development Authority member Mike Cooper.

Cooper, who chairs the statewide Oklahoma Strategic Military Planning Commission, recently attended a meeting in Atlanta at which representatives of military communities got together with representatives of the Department of Defense’s Office of Economic Adjustment.

The prime topic of discussion was how military communities whose facilities will be expanding as the result of BRAC can apply for federal funds to help build up local infrastructure needed to accommodate that growth.

During the sessions, Cooper said, DoD representatives like William Anderson, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and logistics, and Fred Kuhn, Air Force deputy assistant secretary for installations, repeatedly used the phrase “enduring facilities,” to refer to bases that remain after BRAC 2005.

“You could tell it was a key word they used to describe our facilities,” said Cooper. “I think that is a pretty positive thing, an indication that the facilities that remain will grow and expand.

“When we talk about our long-range plan to protect and enhance Vance and its mission, it is great to feel they (the DoD) feel that way, too.”

Much of Cooper’s discussion with DoD officials at the conference concerned Lawton, since Fort Sill will see an increase of more than 3,600 new jobs as a result of BRAC.

But Cooper said VDA will seek federal dollars to help with the upcoming \$4 million project to pave and widen Wheat Capital Road, which runs south of the base and will be the access road for the \$8.7 million Armed Forces Reserve Center to be constructed on base.

“We are going to try to fund the road through a cooperative effort (between the city, and state) like we did the Southgate work,” said Cooper, “but if we can inject federal dollars into the mix, great.”

Another project that might fit Office of Economic Adjustment criteria is the proposed extension of the crosswind runway at Enid Woodring Regional Airport. The runway needs to be extended to be able to accommodate Vance planes. Extending the crosswind runway would enable Vance to close its own crosswind runway, which would give Vance officials more options when deciding how to use land given to the Air Force by the city of Enid.

“That would allow them (the Air Force) to do long-range planning on what they want to do with that land,” said Cooper.

Another pressing need at Vance, Cooper said, is the proposed \$15.7 million combined operations center to house the base’s flying training squadrons. Some money for that project will come from the nearly \$40 million allocated as the result of BRAC. The BRAC commission decided to move

Enid News & Eagle

PAGE: Internet

DATE 15 May 06



AETC News Clips

Vance AFB, Okla.



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **15 May 06**

some of the undergraduate pilot training program, as well as part of the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals program, from Moody AFB in Georgia to Vance, and the BRAC allocation will help facilitate that move. In all, Vance is slated to pick up at least 99 new jobs (93 military and six civilian) along with 13 T-6 and 12 T-38 aircraft.

Enid News & Eagle

PAGE: Internet

DATE 15 May 06